

Bella D. - Guardian for Brother

Bella has served as guardian for her younger brother since their parents died. He is disabled as the result of a brain injury at birth. She manages his benefits from Social Security and oversees his medical care. Until recently, the brother has been able to live alone in a trailer, which is in his name as owner. He has held limited jobs over the years, but his physical and mental disabilities have gotten worse and he can no longer work. He is having more trouble handling daily tasks. Bella realizes that soon her brother will also no longer be able to live alone in the trailer. She knows that they will need to sell the trailer.

She is beginning to discuss this with him in a gentle way, so that he can get used to the idea before the move has to be made. The funds from the sale will be needed to cover his housing elsewhere, possibly in a group home. Since the trailer is a moderately large asset, Bella plans to contact the court before she sells it.

She also plans to take her brother to view different residential possibilities. She wants to limit the options to those that are within easy driving distance for herself.

Study Points

- The brother's finances are very limited. His sister needs to protect them carefully for his future needs, especially housing.
- Bella, as guardian, recognizes that the sale of a large asset needs to be cleared beforehand with the court.
- She is planning for the necessary changes and trying to involve her brother as much as possible.
- Bella recognizes her own limitations.